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*** R001
12/31/99

Thursday

SPRINGPORT

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49284

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The Sun

Volume 77/Number 3

Sun Spots

Friends of Scouting campaign begins

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Proceeds from the campaign support local units and programs in the Glades.

When asked, please give generously!

Kick-off meeting for Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society and Glades General Hospital are sponsoring a Kick-off meeting for the Relay For Life on Monday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Glades General Hospital.

Anyone interested in participating should RSVP by calling Maureen at 924-5679.

Tickets available for Pahokee Chamber Banquet

The 49th annual Pahokee Chamber of Commerce awards meeting and banquet is set for Saturday, Feb. 5.

For further details contact the Chamber at 924-5679.

Public meeting on reconstruction of S.R. 715

A public information meeting will be held Feb. 10 at Belle Glade City Hall in the commission chambers to discuss reconstruction of S.R. 715.

The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and residents from Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay are invited to attend.

CYCI Awards banquet Scheduled

The Concerned Youth For Community Improvement, Inc. (CYCI) awards banquet will be held Saturday, Feb. 12 in the City of Pahokee Community Center, 360C, East Main Street, across the street from Burger King at 6 p.m.

The speaker will be Mrs. Mattie M. Crawford, Pahokee District Youth Coordinator for the Pahokee Church of God. For tickets or information, call REV. Patricia Wallace at 924-7080.

Continued on Pg. 2

Two children die in house fire

By Patty Brant

A mobile home fire in Horseshoe Acres in Glades County Saturday, Jan. 29, has left devastation in its wake and two families to cope with the tragic loss of two small children.

Eight-month-old Alyssa Britt and 16-month-old Patricia Britt died in the fire which law enforcement officials believe began with a lighter in the hands of a young child.

Alyssa is the daughter of D'Lane and Misty Britt. Patricia is the daughter of Eddie Britt and April Burroughs. D'Lane is also Eddie Britt's son.

The home was fully engulfed when the first authorities arrived.

Glades County sheriff's investigators continue to piece together the events leading up to the tragedy.

Misty Britt was at home with her five children and her father-in-law's infant daughter when a six-year-old ran out yelling that the house was on fire. Mrs. Britt left the room where her daughter, Alyssa, and Patricia were asleep to see what was wrong. The fire alarm went off and she began to get the other four children out of the home, but the rapidly spreading fire prevented her from returning to the bedroom where the two younger ones were sleeping.

Patricia's father, Eddie Britt, came from next door and tried to crawl through the fire to reach the children, suffering from burns to his back in the attempt. Neighbors' attempts to reach the children were also unsuccessful.

Deputy Mike Stevens of the

Hendry County Sheriff's Office, heard the call and rushed to the scene. He managed to pull one of the little girls out into the fresh air, but it was already too late.

Both Patricia's parents are employed by the Belle Glade Police Department. Sgt. Eddie Britt is a 17-year veteran of the force and her mother, April Burroughs, has been a dispatcher there for two years.

The tragedy is compounded by the victims' close family ties. Sgt. Britt's son, D'Lane Britt, is the father of Alyssa, the eight-month-old victim. D'Lane and Misty Britt also have four boys, ages 2, 4, 6 and 7.

The other four children were taken to Hendry Regional Medical Center to be checked for smoke inhalation. One remained overnight and was released the next day.

Firefighters from Moore Haven, Muse, Pioneer Plantation and LaBelle responded to the call which was received at 12:18 p.m.

The Glades County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program is establishing a fund to assist the families through the crisis.

In addition to their precious daughter, the D'Lane and Misty Britt family lost everything in the fire. If you would like to help, contact Cathy Baxter at 863-946-1600.

Belle Glade Police Chief Michael Miller responded to the tragedy by saying, "We're all very saddened by this. We're going to give them all the support and love we can."

The police department is also opening a fund at the Bank of Belle Glade to assist the family.

South Bay agrees to settle in lawsuit with Tripp & Associates

By Tracy Whirls

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See Lawsuit/Page 9

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Pahokee City Manager Ken Schenck said in order to escape the economic slump the city has experienced for several years, it must diversify its economy, attract new employers for its unemployed residents and promote itself as a desirable tourist destination or perhaps as a bedroom community for West Palm Beach.

"The basic business is farming. It's seasonal and low pay anyway. The biggest blow to the economy was when the sugar company went to automated harvesting of the cane. That took 10-12,000 employees out of the economy, and closed some of the smaller stores," said Mr. Schenck.

It also hurt the city when the hospital closed two years ago.

The hospital itself belongs to the Palm Beach County Health Care District, while the doctors offices affiliated with the hospital are still tied up in bankruptcy court.

"There are a lot of things the hospital could be used for—a nursing home, a long term care facility, some kind of abuse treatment facility, if someone had the wherewithal to come in and do it," Mr. Schenck noted.

Mr. Schenck noted there are more than 200 buildings in the city that are over 50 years old, many of which could be rehabilitated and put to new uses. The Pahokee Theatre, built in 1935, now belongs to the city and is used for concerts and other community events. Also noteworthy are the Everglades Inn and the Creole



A group of prominent Belle Glade residents were locked up Thursday—for a good cause. They agreed to participate in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual Jail and Bail event held at the Drawbridge Cafe. Pictured are, left to right, George Tuskey, Darlene Mottley, Jimmy Sims, Carol Stoltz, Norman Jenkins and Gayle Love.

City begins authorizing contracts to repair city property damaged by Hurricane Irene

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Mr. Schenck said the city has received \$32,000 for repairs for the roof and the sides of the park building, and a portion of the funding will be used to refurbish interior walls of the building. The city has also received \$23,000 for repairs for the motor pool, as well as \$239,000 for repairs to the gymnasium and another \$34,000 to replace the gym's air conditioning.

Mr. Schenck said the monies the city has received so far are interim checks, issued based on engineers evaluations of damage to the property and estimates for repairs. Mr. Schenck said the city will now be able to authorize the contractors to begin repairs on these buildings.

The fate of the marina is still up in the air. The city had

submitted a \$250,000 claim for damage to the marina, and thus far the insurance company has agreed to cover only \$150,000 in repairs. Mr. Schenck said some repairs, like \$10,000 repairs to the city's bait stand will likely be covered by FEMA.

In other business, the commissioners asked City Manager Schenck to revise a proposed contract between the city and Emilio Perez which allows Mr. Perez to lease ten acres of the Farmer's Market to operate a mulch cleaning facility at a cost of \$500 a month. Commissioners Keith Babb and Roy Singletary suggested that the lease should be adjusted upward by 10 percent annually, saying that the rental price was too low. The commissioners asked Mr. Schenck to negotiate a revised contract with Mr. Perez and bring it back before the commission at their Feb. 11 meeting.

In his report to the commission, Mr. Schenck said the city's chances look good to receive \$125,000 in grant funding from the state for ongoing rehabilitation of the old Pahokee High School.

He reported that the Florida Department of Trans-

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Mr. Schenck reported he met recently with city managers from South Bay, Clewiston and Belle Glade concerning proposals from two companies who have proposed installing natural gas pipelines through the area. Mr. Schenck said none of the company's have approached Pahokee about routing the pipeline through that area, but he will continue to follow progress of the negotiations with the other lakeshore communities.

Finally, Mr. Schenck said, after reviewing the city's interlocal agreement with FDOT, the city is responsible for maintaining and pruning plan trees that about the department's right of ways. Pahokee resident Mr. Diab, had approached the commission about removing two trees near his home that block visibility to the highway. Despite receiving verbal

See Repairs/Page 9



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Building, among others.

"We did an historical survey 10 years ago. We have several historic buildings, some rehabable and some that need to be torn down. The problem is there's not a lot of grant money available for such projects," Mr. Schenck said. "We had looked at setting up an

historic district at one time. The problem is there's not enough money here to do anything with it."

There are, however, tax incentives for individuals who might be interested in such a project and the entire three-square mile area of downtown Pahokee has been designated as an enterprise zone, making it eligible for sales tax incentives and payroll tax breaks for businesses based on the number of employees that would be served. Palm Beach County also offers tax incentives to new businesses. The city of Pahokee could offer its own tax incentive package, the city manager said, "but we need the tax money, to be honest."

While incentives like the Welfare to Work program have

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Viewed positively, he notes, the high unemployment rate could translate into a large labor pool for a prospective employer.

"What we need is several employers that could provide full-time, year-round employment, which is something we don't have at this point."

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Obituaries
See Page 8

Classified ads
See Pages 10 & 11

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See Interview/Page 9

Serving the cities of Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahokee and South Bay

Animal Medical Clinic of Belle Glade to hold open house

The Animal Medical Clinic of Belle Glade will host an open house Saturday, March 4 at 8 a.m.

During the open house, the veterinarians and their staff will offer free heartworm screenings and other services. Later in February, the clinic will host a reduced fee spay and neuter clinic for cats and dogs.

The clinic, formerly operated by Dr. Kitting, reopened in November. Owned and staffed by Dr. Greg Drummond and Dr. Stuart Fox, who also operate a veterinary clinic in West Palm Beach, the clinic is staffed six days a week Monday through

Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also seeing patients at the clinic is Dr. Noelle Savedoff, a University of Florida graduate who speaks both Spanish and French.

Dr. Fox said the vets decided to reopen the clinic to serve an unmet need in the Glades.

"Just by the number of people coming through and how happy they are that we've reopened, we can tell there was a tremendous need here. Just in the two months we've been open we've been very busy with a broad range of things," Dr. Fox said.

"So far we've treated a dog who had a hook through his paw and last week Dr. Drum-

mond performed surgery to fix a broken jaw on a cat," Dr. Fox said.

The clinic offers care for small animals, large animals and exotics, has on site x-ray and other facilities and can refer cases to neurologists and other specialists. They also offer boarding and grooming services and carry a complete line of specialty cat and dog foods as well as heartworm and flea preventative treatments.

The clinic is open six days a week and offers a drop off service, allowing pet owners to drop off their pets in the morning for their appointments and pick them up in the afternoon.



Deena Stokes, representative for Florida Ag in the Classroom, Inc., was the guest speaker at the January Women Involved in Farm Economics meeting held Jan. 21 in Clewiston. Deena is the daughter of Deanna Stokes and Eugene Stokes and the granddaughter of Gene and Laura Mae Enfinger of Belle Glade. Shown with Deena (on left) is WIFE President Ardis Hammock.

SUNSPOTS/From page 1

SAC meeting

Attention all Lake Shore Middle School Students. Don't forget the monthly Student Advisory Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in the South Campus Media Center. All parents are urged to attend.

Yard sale

The youth group of the First United Methodist Church of Pahokee will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, Feb. 5 beginning at 8 a.m.

The sale will be located at the church, 491 East Main Street, Pahokee. The youth group will use part of the money raised for a service project for the church.

Yard sale

Community Fellowship Church of God of Prophecy will have a giant yard sale Saturday, February 5, beginning at 7 a.m., 601 S.E. 12th St. & SR 880, Belle Glade.

Proceeds go for the church parsonage roof and other church projects.

For more information call

996-5054.

Fox Family at South Bay Church of God

The Fox Family, from Nashville, Tennessee will perform at the South Bay Church of God on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. The community is invited to attend this free concert. The South Bay Church of God is located at 156 N.W. 9th Avenue.

Bingo every Tuesday

The Pahokee Elks Lodge, East Main Street, offers bingo every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Lodge.

For more information call the Lodge.

Parents invited to learn about Megaskills

All parents, friends and members of the community are invited to a Megaskill Workshop at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 1 & 8 to learn how to help your child succeed in school and life.

Sessions will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 1200 E. Main Street, Pahokee.

For more information contact Gloria Williams or Oraida Potter at 924-6441 or 924-6460.

Vendor booths available for Black Gold Jubilee

Vendor booth applications are now being accepted for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee to be held April 15.

Applications may be obtained from the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce, by mail at P.O. Box 733, Belle Glade, FL 33430, or by calling 993-3343.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2000.

Red Cross needs volunteers

The American Red Cross Glades Area Branch is looking for residents of the Glades area to get involved with various programs and services offered by the American Red Cross.

There will be a new Volunteer Orientation held on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. at the office, located at 195 U.S. Highway 27, South in South Bay.

For more information contact your local American Red Cross at 992-9703.

Rummage Sale

Xi Zeta Mu Sorority will have a rummage sale on Saturday, Feb. 5 beginning at 7 a.m.

The sale will be held in the parking lot of the Community United Methodist Church, located at 401 S.W. First Street, Belle Glade.

Workers needed for Census 2000

The Census 2000 Bureau is in the process of scheduling testing sites for the Glades for positions that will be available in this upcoming census. The positions are part-time and full time, as Census takers, crew leaders and office clerks.

"Anyone interested can call Belle Glade City Hall at 996-0100 and leave their name and number with the receptionist or call 1-888-325-7733 to find out how and where to apply.

Photography Contest open

Applications are now available for the annual Black Gold

Jubilee Photography Contest. The theme of this year's Jubilee is "Reflections of the Glades" and the event will be held April 15 at the Belle Glade Marina.

Deadline to enter the photography contest is Friday, March 24 at 5 p.m., and applications can be mailed or delivered to Karen Corbin, 148 S.E. 5th Street, North, Belle Glade or to Dianne Carter, City of Belle Glade, Municipal Complex, Belle Glade. Photos entered in the contest must have been taken in the counties sur-

rounding Lake Okeechobee: Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee and Martin Counties. The photo must have been taken in 1999-2000 and must be no larger than 8 by 10.

Categories include: landscape/still life, character (people) or nature (animals/birds).

Applications are available at The Sun newspaper, Everglades Trading or Averill's Studio and Gifts.

For more information call Mrs. Corbin at 996-6881 or Mrs. Carter at 996-0100, extension 608.

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front kitchen design, screen room, ample storage, patio, includes kitchen appliances, carpet, drapery, A/C, soil & landscaping (move-in ready).

WAS \$45,565

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ROOMY TWO BEDROOM
Award winning floor plan, screen room, carpet, lots of storage, move-in ready.

WAS \$55,897

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SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM
Popular open-split plan, double carport, great storage, move-in ready.

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\$54,755 #207

COMFORTABLE 3 BEDROOM

Screen room overlooks neighborhood park, near morning room design, carport, golf cart garage, lots of house for the money.

WAS \$65,549

\$59,498 #219

ROOMY THREE BEDROOM
Best combination, great floor plan, move-in ready, storage room, carport, golf cart garage.

WAS \$75,906

\$67,084 #259

SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM
Popular open-split plan, double carport, great storage, move-in ready.

WAS \$101,668

\$88,100 #244

COMMUNITY

Enjoy the home, community and active retirement lifestyle you've dreamed about at a price you can afford!

A gated community for seniors, age 55+, offers both great quality and quality of life. Beautifully wooded setting close to shopping, restaurants and medical facilities.

LOCATION

Sitting in the "best little city in the state," surrounded by lakes, golf courses and citrus country, its handy Central Florida location is close to all the attractions, yet away from the congestion and high coastal prices. Good shopping, good restaurants, good medical, great golf and great fishing are just part of its appeal.

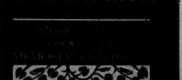
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East on 27 to 25, North on 25 to 15, North on 15

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• Come Prepared to Purchase
• Seller Motivated!
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EXPLORATION

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Ginger may do more than spice up holiday cookies



Katrina Elskin
Contributing Editor

Ginger, for example, is great in cookies and is used to adding to many Chinese dishes. In the Orient, ginger is also used as an herbal remedy to aid digestion.

Gingerale, a common home remedy for an upset stomach, works because of the calming effect ginger has on the digestive system. However, it only works if it is real gingerale, made with extract of ginger. If

you are buying gingerale to treat nausea, read the label. Some brands are made with artificial flavorings and contain no real ginger. Some only contain traces of ginger. Look for real gingerale.

According to The People's Pharmacy website, ginger is also used as a cold remedy. To make ginger tea, peel a piece of fresh ginger root about the size of your thumb and grate it into a cup.

Pour boiling water over the grated ginger root and steep for five minutes. Strain the tea into another cup and sweeten with honey.

According to The People's Pharmacy Herb Library, the active ingredients in ginger root are the same substances that give ginger its distinctive

aroma and flavor: gingerols, shogaols, gingerdiones and zingerone. The concentration of these substances differs in ginger grown in different parts of the world. So those using ginger for medicinal purposes may find the results vary according to the origin of the ginger root.

Ginger is commonly used for nausea of all types. It has been prescribed to ward off seasickness. It is believed that ginger exerts its anti-nausea properties directly in the gastrointestinal tract, rather than through the central nervous system as most of the familiar motion-sickness medications do, the Herb Library states.

While some American doctors, including the doctor who delivered my children, recommend ginger, gingersnaps and

gingerale for morning sickness, German doctors advise pregnant women to be careful not to consume too much ginger. Ginger can increase bleeding and could be dangerous to women in labor, the website states.

Ginger is also reputed to help lower cholesterol, help reduce intestinal gas, suppress coughs, reduce fever and help alleviate pain.

All that and it tastes good in a cookie.

The People's Pharmacy lists the dosage for ginger as follows: Minimum dose for an adult is 250 mg. Doses of 500 mg and 940 mg have been used in clinical trials for motion sickness. For motion sickness, ginger should be taken at least half an hour before departure. The dose may be repeated

every four hours, to a maximum adult dose of approximately 4 gm a day.

Candied or fresh ginger might be substituted, but the dose could be difficult to calculate. However, even something as common as ginger root isn't for everyone. The Herbal Library warns that ginger may increase bile acid secretion and could cause problems for those with gall bladder disease or gall stones.

Ginger may increase the absorption of other drugs, so if you are on prescription medication, check with your doctor about potential problems.

Those who take drugs that prevent clotting, such as Coumadin, aspirin, Plavix or Ticlid should only take ginger under a doctor's supervision.

An adverse reaction could result in excess bleeding.

And as I mentioned earlier, pregnant women should check with their doctor to determine whether or not it is safe for them to consume ginger, and if so, how much they should take.

Regular readers might get tired of reading this, but you should always check with your doctor before making any changes in your diet or exercise plan.

This is especially important if you are on prescription medications because some drugs interact badly with foods that would otherwise be considered healthy.

The People's Pharmacy talk show is on National Public Radio. Their website is www.peoplespharmacy.com.

ER Chronicles: I've never had herpes



Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

By Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

Last evening at work, Sherry began noticing that her index finger seemed a little sensitive. As she performed her nursing duties on the seventh floor at Oceans Hospital, she tried to ignore the finger. But, by

the time she was ready to head home just before midnight, it was getting difficult to ignore.

Sherry took a couple ibuprofen tablets and went to bed. The finger woke her up when she turned over at 3 o'clock and touched it against her pillow.

"Ouch."

She sat up, turned on the light, and was shocked to see what her finger had become during the night. In her eight years as a nurse, she had never seen anything like this. She tried to go back to sleep, but couldn't get her mind off of her finger.

After a couple hours of tossing and turning, she decided to get it looked at.

The ER at Oceans Hospital is not usually too busy early in the morning. When Sherry registered at the triage desk at 7:30 a.m., there were only three people in the waiting room. She was on an ER exam bed within a few minutes.

"Hi, Sherry," Emergency physician Tammy Cortez recognized the familiar face of this surgical nurse from upstairs.

"Hey, Doc. How are ya this morning?" Sherry was always friendly and talkative.

During the brief session of small talk, Cortez glanced down at Sherry's hand. She stopped speaking in mid-sentence.

"Whoa! What happened to that?" She gestured at Sherry's index finger. Sherry was holding the finger in front of and away from her chest so that nothing would touch the sensitive, painful skin.

"I don't know, Doc. It got a little sore last evening, but...wow! It's really killing me this morning!" She winced in pain to even think about it.

Cortez reached for a pair of latex gloves, then approached Sherry's hand. She focused a bright overhead light onto the finger.

"So, it came on pretty fast?" Cortez inspected the entire finger, and then moved up the hand and arm, squeezing, rubbing, probing.

"Yes. It was fine yesterday when I came to work."

"Is this sore here?" Cortez asked as she felt a small lump up under Sherry's armpit.

"Well, yes, kinda sore. I didn't even notice that before."

Cortez stepped back, and shot a serious look down at Sherry.

"Sherry, do you know of any time in the past month where you might have been exposed to Herpes virus?"

"Herpes! No!" She paused. "Well, I don't think so. I mean, I've never had Herpes."

"Well, Sherry, I think this is actually a Herpes virus infection in your finger. It's called 'Herpetic whitlow,' and it means your finger must have been exposed to the virus."

Sherry felt, and looked, a bit shocked. "How?"

"Well, it could be from oral or even genital Herpes exposure. And, you're a nurse, so you could have even picked it up at work." Then pointing at the side of the finger, she added, "You see here where these little blis-

ters are forming?"

Sherry looked up quickly, somewhat startled. A vivid memory just came to her.

"You know, Doc. We did have a girl on our floor a couple weeks ago who broke out with a bunch of Herpes blisters while she was recovering from some surgical thing. I took care of her on my shift for a couple days before she went home. Do you think..."

Her voice trailed off.

Cortez shrugged her shoulders.

"You got it from somewhere, Sherry."

Sherry's mind ran back through the patients she'd had the past month, and her friends that she had been around recently. She could think of no other possibilities.

Sherry broke the silence.

"What do I do now?"

Cortez explained how this infection starts by penetrating the skin barrier through a break, even a small one, in the skin.

"It eventually heals up on its own, like a Herpes infection in other parts of the body." She paused momentarily, then added, "But it can take a couple weeks."

"A couple weeks! But what about work?"

"We'll have to talk to our infection control specialist about this, Sherry. I'm sure they won't want you to have contact with patients until this is healed up."

Sherry felt like someone had just slapped her. She felt infectious, almost dirty.

Herpetic whitlow is an infection of a finger caused by the Herpes Simplex Virus. The infection begins after direct contact by the skin with secretions that contain the virus. Such contact may be with oral secretions, with genital Herpes virus, or may occur in healthcare workers who are accidentally exposed to infected secretions.

It is usually limited to one finger, and causes pain, swelling, and blisters on the finger. It also may lead to swollen lymph glands near the elbow or in the axilla. As with most Herpes virus infections, signs and symptoms last 2 to 3 weeks, resolve spontaneously, and may recur in the same area in the future.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. www.fceop.org



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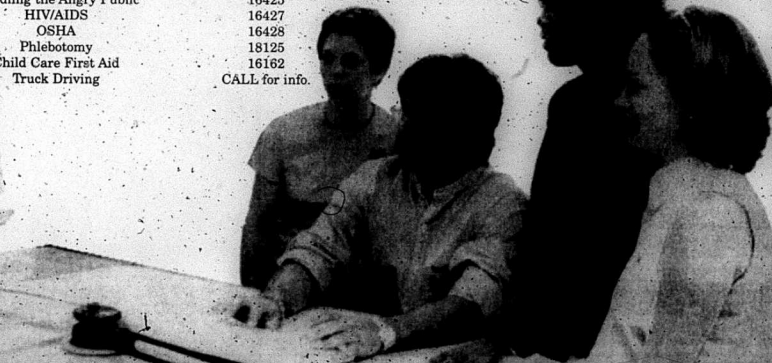
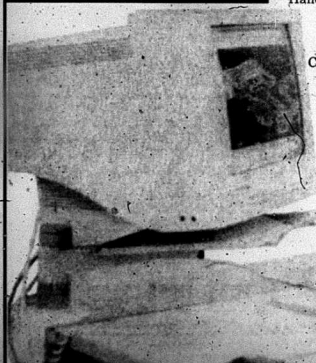
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OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?



The Sun
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Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.
Call 996-6636 to express your opinion or ask questions about public issues.
You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Responding to previous *Speak Out* caller

"This is in response to the Jan. 27 *Speak Out* Two years and still nothing. Instead of sitting back and expecting everyone else to do something, the caller should be trying to organize a recognition event for the Glades Central football team. This caller was also uninformed of past events involving the Glades Day School football teams that won State Championships.

Never has the City of Belle Glade put a banner across Main Street proclaiming for all to see that the Gators were State Champions, even though they have won four state championships. And never has there been a parade through the city to celebrate their championships. The only recognition those football players and coaches received from the City of Belle Glade was a proclamation from the city commission that was read at one of their regular meetings. The city commission writes proclamations for all teams that win State Championships. All celebrations were done at the school and were organized and financed by the parents, fans and Booster Club.

As to the issue of the gold rings, the only way any of the Glades Day players received gold rings was if their parents paid the difference between silver and gold, just as the Glades Central players had to do.

If this caller is so concerned about recognition, they should be members of the Raider Booster Club and be adamant in the pursuit of a celebration. They should not sit back and expect everyone else to do it for him or her. Most of us are great at telling everyone else what should be done and how to do it, but not so great at actually doing it ourselves. Many people like to ride on the coattails of success, but distance themselves from people and things that are less successful.

If this caller is observant, they will see that there is a banner across Main Street, just like last year. I have heard that on Feb. 5 there is a parade followed by a celebration at Glades Central, just like last year.

Why not *Fremd Village*, too?

"I would like Pahokee Housing Authority Executive Director Julia Hale or Victor Atkins to respond to some concerns that I have. I would like to know why Padgett Island Project Homes are remodeled and not Fremd Village's. Padgett Island homes are all painted the same color while Fremd Village's are all sorts of different colors and to top it off they now have all brand new carpets altogether. Whenever the question is

frequently asked, "What about Fremd Village project?" The answer is always "We're working on it." The only thing that was painted in Fremd Village was the windowsills traced in white paint. What is the point? It's been like that for at least three years with white paint going around the windowsills in Fremd Village.

Another question I have, is when a tenant requests a work order, why are they always charged for it? Whatever happened to wear and tear? Besides, what is the point of paying your rent? Isn't that money supposed to be used in such cases as repairs?

Also another issue that has been a problem in all of our project homes for quite some time is the terrible children and the parents who fail to raise them. Nothing is ever done about all the children on your porch, pulling on your clotheslines, or in your yard, not to mention the filthy trash all over your yard. Why aren't the rules enforced strong enough? Tenants pay rent, some do not. However, the situation is, they have every right for justice to be served. All it seems that Pahokee Housing Authority is concerned about is their rent. They care less about complaints, but as soon you're a \$1 late in your rent, you're served with a ten page letter of notice of termination of lease—which is quite ridiculous to waste so much paper for a dollar late. Please respond Ms. Hale or Mr. Atkins and be sincere."

Editor's note: Ms. Hale or Mr. Atkins are invited to respond to this caller's concerns.

Thank you *Chief Miller*

"I just want to thank Chief Miller for his explanation concerning the closing of the southeast seventh street bridge. An informed public can be much more appreciative of the procedures and difficulties involved in solving the problem. Now many of us can support the city's efforts and look forward to the project's completion. Thank you."

Crybabies

"I'm calling because I'm just thoroughly disgusted with the way Glades Central reacts to every little thing and always throws up Glades Day to the Belle Glade Sun. If Glades Day had won the state championship, the roads would have been locked down and they would have had rings and da da da, whatever. The kids from Glades Day, their parents buy their rings, their jackets, whatever, it's not that the city gives them

Speak Out continues on Page 5

Governor's budget helps DOC fight crime

Initiatives will empower victims, supervise offenders, enhance officer pay

By Michael Moore

Secretary, Dept. of Corrections

On Monday, Jan. 10, I was honored to join Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan and members of the Florida Legislature to unveil portions of the Department of Corrections budget request aimed at increasing public safety and empowering victims of crime.

The initiatives are part of Governor Jeb Bush's 2000-2001 crime-fighting budget recommendations to the Legislature. I recognize "special risk" retirement for correctional probation officers (CPOs), pay raises for correctional officers and CPOs, expanded tracking of dangerous offenders and initiatives for crime victims are all included in the governor's budget.

The ongoing reorganization of the prison system, which saves \$10 million in annual operating costs, is partly responsible for the administration's ability to offer raises in officer salaries. Reorganization has been a challenge to implement, but it has helped streamline the agency, which has saved money that can now go towards essential corrections issues.

State Senator Virginia Brown-Waite (District 10) chairwoman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, said the raises and benefits package will be welcomed by the Legislature. "I commend and join the administration for its strong support for the men and women who have chosen this tough profession. I look forward to supporting these needed proposals in the Senate."

Officer salaries

Appropriate staffing is one of the most important tools in operating safe and secure prisons and ensuring proper supervision of released offenders. This administration wants to ensure that the men and women who deal with criminals on a daily basis, whether inside prison walls or under community supervision, be properly compensated for protecting public safety.

The governor's budget recommends to the Legislature (subject to collective bargaining negotiations) \$19.9 million in raises ranging from \$600 to \$1,500 for a majority of the state's correctional officers and CPOs. "Special risk" retirement will allow all CPOs to retire earlier in their careers while nearly doubling their retirement benefits.

This provision will finally and formally recognize the special risks inherent in a CPO's job. Special risk retirement is a benefit that has been sought by CPOs for more than two decades. Most probation officers are on the streets risking their lives in unarmed confrontations with felons. The majority of CPOs work in dangerous environments with little or no back up. They deserve special risk retirement based on the unique risks inherent in their jobs.

State Rep. George Crady (District 12), a member of the House Corrections Committee, praised the department for making the special risk provision a top priority in the budget. "Special risk is a benefit that probation officers and I have been seeking for years," Crady said. "The pay raises for correctional officers will reduce turnover and save money. This



Michael Moore

administration understands the needs of the corrections community."

The pay increases are based on an officer's rank and length of service. The intent is to provide officers the same pay for the same functions and responsibilities. The competitive baseline salaries are expected to reduce staff turnover, thus enhancing public safety for the citizens of Florida. We project first-year savings of \$1.2 million in employee personnel costs.

Correctional officer pay will be raised from an average of \$24,903 (in the first year of employment) to \$25,500. Officers with three-plus years of experience will receive a pay increase from an average of \$26,064 to \$27,665. CPO salary will be increased from an average of \$27,365 to a base of \$29,250. "This is a one-time pay increase to establish a competitive baseline salary level, eliminating the inequities in the present system. The pay plan will reduce turnover and assist the agency in retaining first through third year officers. The vast majority of the agency's certified employees will receive an increase based on this plan.

We propose the establishment of baseline salary levels for both the correctional officer and CPO series, effective July 1, as follows:

Correctional Officers:
Employed less than 1 year: \$25,500
Employed 1-2 years: \$26,265
Employed 2-3 years: \$27,033
Employed over 3 years: \$27,865
Correctional Officer Sergeant: \$30,900
Correctional Officer Lieutenant: \$33,000
Correctional Probation Officer: \$29,250
Correctional Probation Senior Officer: \$32,250
Correctional Probation Specialist: \$35,000
Correctional Probation Supervisor: \$38,000
Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor: \$42,000

If an officer is currently earning above these baseline salaries, his or her pay will remain unchanged. This budget proposal is for the base salary, which is aimed at helping recruitment and reducing turnover. We have found that if correctional officers remain with DOC for at least three years, the likelihood of long term retention increases dramatically. I have also directed my staff to actively study ways to address the salary issues of those correctional officers and CPOs not affected by the proposed plan, such as pay for seniority.

Offender supervision
Increasing offender supervision

is a key goal of the Department of Corrections. One initiative seeks a change in the law that would require mandatory supervision for each inmate released from prison. This would allow DOC to expand supervision of inmates after their release until they have satisfied the full length of their sentences, regardless of their offense.

For example, if an offender were released after serving 12 years of a 15-year sentence, this initiative would mandate the department to supervise him for the remaining three years, even if probation was not court-ordered at the time of sentencing. This law would apply only to offenders who commit crimes on or after the day the new statute is enacted.

GPS

Expanding the use of the GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) system to track the most serious offenders is another improvement DOC hopes to make. GPS is state-of-the-art technology that allows us to track an offender's movements with great precision. The offender wears an electronic ankle bracelet, allowing constant monitoring of his location to determine his compliance with probation.

The system also allows DOC to electronically "rope off" areas such as the victim's residence and place of employment, or even a school or nursing home, when an offender violates these boundaries. We will continue to use conventional radio frequency devices to track less serious offenders. The governor's budget includes a proposal to invest \$5.4 million in monitoring offenders, providing an additional 1,400 additional GPS units to monitor 2,800 offenders on community control. This proposal mainly targets sex offenders and other predatory criminals.

Victims rights

In addition to seeking increased supervision of offenders, I want to make victims rights a top priority for DOC. We seek to empower crime victims, our key stakeholders, by keeping them informed of the whereabouts and status of released offenders.

Victims of crime registered with DOC receive notification by phone as well as in writing when an offender is to be released. Through a toll-free victim service hotline (877-8VICTIM) victims and the public can obtain the latest information on the status of any inmate.

The system has notified almost 9,000 victims since August 1999, managing more than \$5,000 incoming and outgoing calls.

Last year, we unveiled VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), a 24-hour toll-free hotline (877-VINE-4FL) that proactively notifies crime victims of the whereabouts of offenders. Members of the public may also register for notification by calling the toll-free number. The governor's budget provides \$1.4 million to implement automated notification statewide, so crime victims will be able to find out information about prisoners in local jails in addition to those in the state prison system.

The statewide system will also notify law enforcement and the courts of the status of the offender. Statewide implementation will benefit city and county governments, local law enforcement agencies, the public and crime victims.

Editors note: The POLICE NEWS in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

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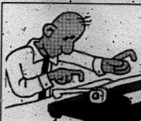
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The Sun (USPS 005026) is published weekly for \$18.00 plus tax, per year in Palm Beach County; \$30.00 plus tax, per year out-of-county, by Independent Newspapers Inc., 417 N.W. 16th Street, Suite 6, Belle Glade, Florida 33430. Periodicals postage paid at Belle Glade, FL.

POSTMASTER:
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Why not drop a bomb on hurricanes?



Mike Lyons

It is a suggestion I've heard many times: why not drop a bomb on a hurricane? Believe it or not, a bomb, even a nuclear device, would have very little impact on a tropical cyclone. As a hurricane researcher put it once, "It would be like throwing a Ping-Pong ball at a charging elephant."

A hurricane is the strongest storm on Earth, releasing heat energy at a rate of 50 trillion to 200 trillion watts. That's the equivalent of a 10-megaton nuclear bomb exploding about every 20 minutes.

No, you can't bomb a hurricane, all you can do is try to stay out of its way. But sometimes a storm can turn into a bomb.

That's what happened last week as the first Nor'easter of the season swept across the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern

states. From North Carolina to Maine, heavy snow, gusty winds and frigid temperatures made life miserable for millions of people.

A meteorological bomb is a storm system that is unusually intense and develops rapidly, a storm that literally explodes like a bomb. The central pressure drops like a rock, as much as 24 millibars in 24 hours. Some storms have intensified as rapidly as 60 millibars in a 24-hour period.

Creating one of these meteorological monsters requires a number of weather parameters all in the right place at the right time. The ingredients include cold air, an intense upper-level disturbance riding along the jet stream and relatively warm temperatures in the ocean.

Most meteorological bombs form off the coast of the Carolinas, just like last week's big storm. The upper level disturbance is the fuel that fires the storm, turning it from a run-of-the-mill low pressure system into a monster with the power of a hurricane.

In fact, these storms are frequently mistaken for hurricanes since they often produce hurricane force winds. Some bomb storms have even formed an eye. Still, there is a big difference between a meteorological bomb and a hurricane.

The most obvious is the loca-

tion and time of year. Bomb cyclones form at higher latitudes, usually near the mid-Atlantic states, while a hurricane develops in the tropics. Bomb cyclones are creatures of winter, developing from late fall to early spring, while hurricanes evolve in summer and early fall.

Like, infamous hurricanes, history is full of stories about meteorological bombs, like New York's "Big Snow" of December, 1947, a storm that dumped 26 inches of snow in 18 hours. Or Boston's famous blizzard in February of 1978, a intense low pressure system that shut down the city for five days with over two feet of snow.

One of the most remarkable meteorological bombs was the Halloween storm of October 31, 1991, the storm made famous by author Sebastian Junger in his book, "The Perfect Storm." With a central pressure of 972 millibars and sustained winds of 60 knots, the storm produced extensive damage along the New England coast.

Like a hurricane, bomb cyclones are rare, occurring only once or twice a year. But when a meteorological bomb does explode it is an event that often re-writes the record book.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WFPB-TV)



Belle Glade Elementary is "bubbling over" with excitement in the new millennium. To commemorate the 100th day of school, all students, teachers and the administration gathered on the P.E. field to blow 100 bubbles each! What a sight to see, 905 people blew 100 bubbles each. (Just how many bubbles is that? Do you math!)

Speak Out/From Pg. 4

anything, and the city has never thrown a big party for Glades Day and I don't feel as a taxpayer that I should throw a big party for Glades Central, it's just ridiculous.

Let the parents of those players honor them and have something at the school and just drop it and quit having your little party party and instead plan some other party or celebration and pay for it yourselves."

Caller likes loud music

"I'm just calling to respond to the caller about loud music that people play in their car.

Me personally, I do like loud music whether it's in your house or in your car I feel like there's a time and a place for everything. If a person's riding on the highway and they feel like blasting their music, because sometimes it does

whatever you may be. I'm sure you will agree with me when I say recent rates on the water bills are outrageous. On top of this there are also ridiculous rules and regulations.

If you're \$1 short on your previous month's water bill they will disconnect you and charge you a \$15 service reconnection fee.

I've also recently come to learn they use this fee as a late fee, also, not necessarily just disconnection. They also have another \$5 late fee they've recently started which can bring your bill that was \$1 short from the previous month to a whopping \$36. We as a community have to get together and fight this. If they're going to raise the rates then give us, the community, a break on the late charges.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way. We're not asking for a handout—just be reasonable. We're tired of the

Now if a person's playing their music loud inside their home, that's something they need to discuss with their landlord.

New concern about water bills

"Attention residents of Belle Glade, black, white, brown,

CRIME STOPPERS



Howard Wright

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate Howard Wright who is wanted for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Wright is a black male, 5'5" tall, and weighs 150 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and a scar on his right wrist. His date of birth is October 27, 1968.

His last known address was

840 West Avenue A, Belle Glade. His Social Security number is unknown and his last occupation is also unknown. His warrant was active as of January 25, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of Howard Wright or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 612 complaints and gave 33 traffic citations the week of January 24-30.

Those arrested included:

January 24 - No arrests made.

January 25 - Eddie Brown, 19, robbery.

January 26 - Willie Bush, 23, possession of marijuana under 20 grams, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of an imitation controlled substance, failure to appear on charges of littering and strong arm robbery.

January 27 - Juvenile, 16, warrant for robbery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, escape and resisting an officer with violence.

January 28 - Felix Mayo, 30, domestic battery.

January 29 - Marlene Puentes, 20, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; Rosalind Ruffin, 29, sale of marijuana.

January 30 - Juvenile, 17, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years of age; Leyone Mincey, 18, grand theft auto; Jermaine Robinson, 27, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; Joseph Kelly, 47, domestic battery; Bobby Earl Jones, 53, aggravated domestic battery; Joe Robert McGhee, 65, failure to appear on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia; Jamie Gutierrez, 38, opposing by a disguised person.

January 31 - No arrests made.

January 27 - No arrests made.

January 28 - Darren Washington, 32, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, possession of marijuana over 20 grams and possession of marijuana with intent to sell; Antonio Sanchez, 35, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, possession of marijuana over 20 grams and possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

January 29 - Eric Greenwald, 37, possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

January 30 - No arrests made.

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RECYCLE YOUR TEXTILES



GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND PREVENT WASTE

Pick up your "official" textile recycling bag and fill it with unwanted textile items such as clothes, towels, stuffed toys and linens. Then drop it off at your favorite not-for-profit organization that accepts textiles.

Free bags are available at the following Palm Beach County locations:

Washington Mutual Bank



Sports this week

Glades Day Junior high boys at 12-2 as season nears end

The Glades Day Gators junior high boys basketball team improved their record to 12-2 last week, despite losing to Clewiston Jan. 27 by a score of 28-24, before coming back to defeat Benjamin Jan. 28 51-47.

Among the outstanding players in last week's action, Ray Towell totaled 37 p.nts, 11 rebounds and four steals. Justin Garrett had 8 points, 12 steals and 4 assists and

Jeff Carter, who Coach Brian Seider described as the team's most improved player, scored 5 points, 15 rebounds, 5 blocks and three steals.

"We played against Clewiston without two starters, one being our leading scorer, so I was proud of the team's effort. Beating Benjamin twice in a season is a great accomplishment because they are our biggest rival," said

Coach Seider.

The Gators will play Hollywood Christian at home Friday, Feb. 4.

"Hollywood was one of only two losses for us, so we would like a little revenge against them," Coach Seider said.

The coach said to win what will be the junior high team's last game of the season "the whole team will have to play well."

Glades Day varsity is 7-13

The Glades Day Varsity Gators brought their record to 7-13 last week, losing to LaBelle 90-43, defeating St. Edwards 72-60 and losing to Benjamin 94-62.

Leading the efforts were Tony Pater with 36 points and 31 rebounds, and Jesse Montalto

earned 40 points, 26 rebounds and 14 steals.

Patrick Cross did an excellent job as point guard, Coach Richard Schmidt said.

The Gators will face Hollywood Christian at home Feb. 4 and North Lauderdale Prep Feb. 5

before hitting the road for two away games Feb. 8 and Feb. 11 against LaBelle and North Broward respectively.

The Gators will end their regular season play at home Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. against University.

Glades Youth Baseball sign-ups Feb. 12

Pahokee Little League Baseball is merging into Glades Youth Baseball and Lassie League Softball to become part of the Dixie Youth Baseball League, along with several other cities around Lake Okechobee. What does this mean? It means everyone from age 5 through the age of 18 will be able to play baseball or softball. It also means there will be more competition and an exciting All Star

Tournament.

Sign ups have already begun in Belle Glade and Pahokee sign ups will begin on Feb. 12 and continue on Feb. 19. The registration fee is \$35 and this will cover the insurance as well as the shirt and cap for the players.

We are looking for coaches for all teams. If you are interested in coaching, please show up at the sign ups. We will be offering T-Ball,

baseball and girls softball and playing in Belle Glade until Padgett Park has been repaired.

Parents, please bring your child, along with his or her birth certificate and cash or a check, made out to Glades Youth Baseball on the dates listed.

The sign ups will be held at the old Pahokee High School gymnasium from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Deuce Deuce For Kids winner announced

Deuce Deuce For Kids would like to thank everyone who supported the Super Bowl 2000 fund raiser. The drawing was held on Jan. 8 and the winner was Tyrone Mincoy

of Atlanta.

Deuce Deuce For Kids is a non-profit organization founded by Jimmy Spencer to fund summer camp and recreational activities for

the children of the Glades area.

If you would like to give a donation to this organization, please call Mrs. Sarah H. Spencer at 954-996-5056 for more information.



Glades Central defensive back Johnny Mullins signed a nation letter of intent with Duke University. He is pictured here with his parents, Johnny Mullins, Sr. and Vivian Mullins of Pahokee.

Six from Glades Central sign college letters of intent

The Glades Central High School Football Program held a news conference at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2 to announce that six players from the 1999 3-A State Championship Team signed national letters of intent.

Carlton Baker, a linebacker who was recognized by the Palm Beach Post as one of its pre-season Super 11 players was also selected as a linebacker in first team all state, all-conference, all area, all district and first team all-American. Carlton also served as a team captain and was selected to play in the Outback Steak House all-star game. He signed a national letter of intent with the University of Arkansas.

Clarence Laws, a defensive end who started in 30 consecutive games was selected as a defense

player in first team all conference and all state. He signed a national letter of intent with the University of Kansas.

Stephen Messam, a wide receiver and a Wendy's Heisman Candidate was selected as all-state and all-area for Track and Field. He was also second runner-up in the triple and long jump at state finals. He signed a national letter of intent with the University of Central Michigan.

Johnny Mullins, a defensive back and Blue Chip All American was selected as first team all-state, first team all area, first team all district and first team all conference. Johnny was also selected to play in the Outback Steak House all-star game. He signed a national letter of intent with Duke University.

Santonio Thomas, a defensive lineman and the Palm Beach Post Defensive Player of the Year was selected as all state, all area, all district and all conference. He was also selected to play in the Outback Steak House and the Florida Georgia All-Star games. He signed a national letter of intent with the University of Florida.

Reginald Vickers, a wide receiver who was recognized by the Palm Beach Post as one of its pre-season Super 11 players and recognized as one of the Super Top 25 Wide Receivers was selected as all state, all district, all conference and all area. He was also selected to play in the Outback Steak House and the Florida Georgia All-Star games, and also signed a national letter of intent with the University of Florida.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY BALL

GLADES YOUTH BASEBALL AND LASSIE LEAGUE SIGN-UP EXTENDED

THE GLADES YOUTH BASEBALL AND LASSIE LEAGUES ARE NOW SANCTIONED BY DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC. IN OUR DISTRICT, WE WILL COMPETE IN TOURNAMENTS WITH TEAMS FROM AROUND THE LAKE.

ALL YOUTH THROUGH THE AGES OF 5 AND 18 ARE URGED TO SIGN-UP TO PLAY BALL.

AGE DIVISIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Baseball:

A - T-Ball (Ages 5-7)

AA - Farm League (Ages 8-10)

AAA - Little League (Ages 11-12)

- Dixie Majors Summer League (Ages 13-18)

Softball:

Dixie Girl's Coach Pitch (Ages 5-8)

Dixie Girl's Fast Pitch (Ages 9-12)

Dixie Girl's Fast Pitch Summer League (Ages 13-18)

TO SIGN-UP FOR BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL, bring a birth certificate for proof of age and \$35 to the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 1, 6PM-9PM

Thursday, February 3, 6PM-9PM

Tuesday, February 8, 6PM-9PM

Thursday, February 10, 6PM-9PM

Saturday, February 12, 8AM-12PM

FINAL TRY-OUTS FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 BEGINNING AT 12PM AT MACE PARK.

BASEBALL DAY

FOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL • MACE PARK

FEBRUARY 26 • 8AM

BARBEQUE TICKETS \$6.50 EACH

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH COACHES





Belle Glade Woman's Club honored their Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation ambassador for 1999 and named their HOBY ambassador for 2000 at a luncheon at the Wbridge Cafe Thursday. Pictured are, left to right, Matt Sanchez, the HOBY ambassador for 2000, Rita Schoenfeld, academic counselor at Glades Day, Kristin Hatton, who the HOBY ambassador for 1999, her mother, Anne Hatton and Woman's Club president Sandra Chumblee. The HOBY ambassadors, selected from high schools around state, participate in a leadership training conference each summer, during which spend a weekend meeting business, political and other leaders.



These parents of Gove Elementary students, left to right, Erika Geiger, Luis Solis, Sandra Brown, Dalida Hernandez and Awilda Desruisseaux recently completed the MegaSkills program.

Cat Talk from Gove Elementary



Mini Grants...

The Department of Federal Programs/Title I Family Involvement is pleased to announce the awarding of Family Involvement Mini-Grants to 20 Title I schools. Schools submitting exemplary proposals were awarded up to \$1,000 for projects that provide opportunities for families to share responsibility for academic achievement. Gove Elementary is one of the recipients of such grants. The money is being used to implement their program "Pupils Achieve with Support" (PAWS.)

MegaSkills Graduates

Congratulations to the following parents for completing the recent component on MegaSkills: Erika Geiger, Luis Solis, Sandra Brown, Dalida Hernandez and Awilda Desruisseaux. Each graduate received a certificate of completion, a pin and a VIP (Very Important Parent) certificate. The purpose of MegaSkills is to help students succeed by providing the parents with the necessary tools to ensure a lifetime achievement. We are proud to have them as Gove parents.

A Taste of Mexico...

Aspecial thanks to Mrs. Irish Woodham, the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, and the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties for bringing the Ballet Quetzalli of Veracruz, Mexico, to our school. It was a great opportunity for the students to learn about the dances, instruments and customs of that region of Mexico. It was a great performance and everyone enjoyed it.

The Family Time Challenge...

The Family Time Challenge sponsored by Family First, a non-profit research and communications group and supported by Governor Bush can help make Florida's schools and communities safer for our children. The Family Time Challenge is a new youth violence prevention program. Research shows that children are less likely to become involved in violence when their parents are involved in their lives. Pledge cards have been sent home for parents to participate in this challenge by committing themselves to spend one hour, of one week, one-on-one with each of their children. We urge all parents to partake of this great program by sending the pledge cards back to Family First. The address is listed on the back of the card.

Magnet applications

Parents of students entering kindergarten next fall need to fill out a magnet application form for our International Studies Program whether they live in or out of our school boundaries. Please stop by the school to pick up a form or call for an appointment at 993-1922. The application deadline is Feb. 25.

Magnet Fair

On Saturday, Jan. 15 our school attended a magnet fair at the Palm Beach Mall. It was a great opportunity for the community to become aware of the different program options available to students of Palm Beach County. We thank the Palm Beach Mall for allowing us to showcase our school and for their commitment to education.

"See a penny, pick it up..."

The PTO is sponsoring a penny contest during the month of February. Grades will compete against each other to see which one can bring the most pennies in. The grade with the most pennies collected will receive an ice cream party. The money raised will be used towards the "Adopt-A-Field-Trip Program." Don't wait around, start bringing your pennies to school and see your jar grow.

100th Day Celebration

Balloons, clotheslines, hats, caterpillars, graphs and three-dimensional pictures were a few of the many activities students were involved in during the 100th day of school. Much excitement was evident as students counted to 100 in many interesting ways.

Karen DeCastro to compete in Miss South Carolina Pageant

Karen Melissa DeCastro recently won the 2000 Miss Travelers Scholarship Pageant and will compete in the Miss South Carolina Pageant this coming June. Karen, a 1997 graduate of Glades Day School, was president of her senior class, 1996 Incoming Queen and 1997 Best Queen. She is now a junior at Furman University majoring in Business Administration and Spanish. She is an active member of her sorority, Delta Pi, where she currently serves as the Director of Standards and Ethics and is a Hellenic Delegate. Her sophomore year she served as the philanthropic chair. Karen was also a



Karen Melissa DeCastro
Furman cheerleader her freshman year.
Travelers Rest is a small, close-

by knit town, much like Belle Glade. It is just a few miles from Furman. Karen's year representing the town will require her to support and work toward the aim of her platform, cultural diversity. Other duties include attending Business Association meetings, speaking and visiting at schools and preparing for the Miss South Carolina Pageant.

The pageant consisted of interview, swimsuit, talent and evening gown competition. Karen was named Swimsuit and Interview Winner.

Should Karen win the title of Miss South Carolina she will be just one step away from "Miss America!"

oud arrives for duty in South Korea

Army Pvt. Johnny L. Loud has arrived for duty at Camp Eagle, Wonju, South Korea.

Loud, an avionic communications equipment repairer, is assigned to the 6th Cavalry.

He is the son of Mary E. Slater-Smith of Belle Glade and is a 1996 graduate of Glades Central High School.

Steve Moore AutoNation of Belle Glade is currently overstocked with Chevy trucks. Come in and see the largest truck selection in the area!

Sweet Deals You're Sure To

I LOVE

1999 Pontiac Grand Prix GT

Wide Track, Loaded! Tilt, Cruise, Remote Keyless Entry, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Much, Much More!
SAVE OVER \$3,000!

\$18,999

STK#137545



INTEREST
RATES AS
LOW AS

.9%

1999 Pontiac Montana SE 4DR

3.4 V6, Auto, A/C, P. Windows & Locks, AM/FM Stereo Cassette, Luggage Rack, Rear Window Defogger, Tilt Wheel.
SAVE OVER \$4,500!

\$19,499

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2000 Chevy 12 Passenger Express LS Van

LOAD THE WHOLE TEAM UP!
Loaded with P. Seat, Dual A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Keyless Entry, P. Windows & Locks.
RAN BACK \$4,000!

\$26,499

STK#137545



COME
BY AND SEE
THE ALL NEW
SUBURBAN &
TAHOE IN
STOCK
TODAY!

1999 Chevrolet Astro LS

8 PASSENGER VAN
Dual Air, P. Windows & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Remote Keyless Entry, Aluminum Wheels.
SAVE OVER \$5,600

\$19,699

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WE'VE
GOT 3/4 TON
EXTENDED
CAB 2 & 4
WHEEL DRIVES
IN STOCK!

1999 Pontiac Firebird Coupe

Loaded, Loaded! T-Top, Auto, A/C, P. Windows & Locks, Aluminum Wheels.
RAN BACK TO...

\$17,799

STK#137545



1999 Pontiac Grand Am SE Coupe

V6, Aluminum Wheels, P. Windows & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, CD.
SAVE OVER \$2,500!

\$16,294

STK#137545



1999 Chevy Tahoe LT 4DR

Loaded! Leather, Dual A/C, Running Boards, AM/FM Stereo Cassette & CD Combo.
SAVE OVER \$4,000!

\$28,999

STK#137545



1999 Chevrolet Venture 4DR

Loaded, Tilt, Cruise, P. Windows & Locks, Dual A/C, Keyless Entry.
SCORE BIG...SAVE OVER \$4,200

\$21,399

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All Prices Include
Rebates & GM
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Belle Glade, FL 33430
561-992-9700 • 800-876-6788
www.stevemoorewest.com



AutoNation





The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 611 will host a barbecue and drawing Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Belle Glade Marina Pavilion from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A drawing will be held at 3 p.m. for a men's pulswar watch, donated by Gilbert's Jewelers, Gator Guns and Archery Center annual membership and \$200 gift certificate and a charcoal smoker-grill. The luncheon will include 1/2 chicken, baked beans, cole slaw and drink. Contact Deputy Lee Sutterfield at 996-4888 for tickets. Proceeds from the event will help fund field trips for the post, which includes, back row, left to right, Sgt. John Raulerson, advisor, Deputy Lee Sutterfield, advisor, Natalie Cardenas, Explorer Lt. Monique Dean, Carmen Pupo, Explorer Sgt. Stephanie McPherson, volunteer advisor Wanda Cheek and PBCSO Investigator Tony Mead, and front row, Jose Sanchez, Ernest Mapp and Brian Jackson.



Jessie Lee Mills

Mills celebrates 100th birthday

More than 100 wellwishers, family and friends turned out to celebrate Jessie Lee Mills 100th birthday at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Pahokee Saturday, Jan. 22.

Mrs. Mills was born on Jan. 22, 1900 in Brantly, Alabama to Wash and Ida Davis. She married John Emmett Mills on Nov. 30, 1916 when she was 16 years old. Two years later on June 7, 1918 she gave birth to twins, Lillie Pearl and Willie Merle. Willie died at nine months of age due to pneumonia. Years passed and they became the parents of eleven more children, a total of 13. They are: Lillie Pearl, deceased, who had seven children, Willie Merle, deceased, Lynda, who lives in Pahokee and has five children, Grace, who lives in Loxahatchee and has four children, Gayle, who lives in Pahokee and has three children, Raymond, deceased, who had four children, James who lives in Belle Glade, has three children, Davis, who lives in Stuart, has four children, George, who has lives in Stuart has five children, Ben, deceased, who had three children, Bobby, who lives in Pahokee has six children, Roland, also of Pahokee has two children and Jackie, deceased, who had six children.

Mrs. Mills has 52 grandchildren, 77 great grandchildren, 14 great great grandchildren and most of them are living in Florida. In 1962, her husband Emmett passed away. Mrs. Mills has lived in Pahokee since 1945 and has been residing at the Glades Health Care Center in Pahokee since 1992.

Xi Zeta Mu learn about upcoming

Xi Zeta Mu held their January society meeting at the home of Sara Phillips on Monday, Jan. 24. Ms. Phillips was the hostess for the evening with the assistance of

Laverne Motte, co-hostess. The evening began with a baked spaghetti supper which was enjoyed by all. Special guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs.

McCleave birth announced

Tennille Alexander and George "Chubb" Rock McCleave of Pahokee announce the birth of Gabrielle A. McCleave, born Nov. 11, 1999 at Glades General Hospital weighing six lbs. and 9 ounces. She was 18 inches long at birth.

Maternal grandparents are Dorothy Hill of Pahokee and the late Willie Alexander.

Paternal grandparents are Pamela Michel of Miami and George McCleave, Sr., of Elizabeth, N.C.

Great grandparents are Rena Mae McCleave of Pahokee and



The Florida Lions Camp recently sent representatives to visit the Belle Glade Lions Club. Pictured left to right are Jamie Copeland, Lions Club President Joey Miller and Scott. The Florida Lions Camp is a private nonprofit camp established and dedicated to serving the needs of youth with visual impairments and other challenging disabilities. All individuals five years of age or older are eligible to attend the camp. The facility is located in Lake Wales. Also at the camp is Project Harmony, a five day leadership and communication retreat designed for middle school students. The goal of Harmony is to teach conflict resolution and leadership skills, promoting multi-cultural awareness and overall diversity and focusing on team building and self-esteem. For more information you may contact the Florida Lions Camp at (941) 696-1948.



Gabrielle McCleave

Harold McCray of Pahokee, and Eva Mae Hill of Pahokee and the late Joe Lee Hill.

Hollingsworth birth announced

Turner Thomas Hollingsworth, new baby son of Charlie and Michelle Hollingsworth of Wellington was born on Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 at Palm West Hospital. He weighed in at 6 lbs. 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Julie Wilkinson of Pahokee, Harley and Robin Hollingsworth of Belle Glade.

Great grandparents are Clark Hull Wilkinson and Dot Vandand-hull of Pahokee and T. E. and



Turner Thomas Hollingsworth
Marie Hollingsworth of Long Boat Key

Gilbert-Lamp to wed Saturday

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Martin proudly announce the marriage of their daughter Tamara M. Gilbert to Don Lamp.

Mr. Lamp is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lamp of Belle Glade.

The wedding ceremony will be held at First Baptist Church in Belle Glade Saturday, Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

All friends and family are invited to attend. The reception will be held in the fellowship hall immediately after the ceremony.

inspiring presentation on the "Relay for Life 2000." This is a national fundraising event that allows participants to raise money to help prevent cancer.



Rotary District Governor Herb Dutt, left, and Chief Weather Man Mike Lyons of Channel 25 News were the guests of Pahokee Rotary Club Vice President Elizabeth Cayson, center. The Channel 25 Chief Meteorologist shared with the club the forecast of the weather and discussed the station's desire to provide more coverage of the area.

Obituaries

Patricia Louise Britt, infant daughter of Eddie Britt and April Burroughs of Moore Haven died Saturday, Jan. 29, 2000 in a tragic accident in Moore Haven.

Survivors include her parents, Eddie Franklin Britt and April Marie Burroughs of Moore Haven; brother, D'Lane M. Britt and his wife Misty of Moore Haven; sisters, Aimee Holmes of Keene, New Hampshire, Sheri Lyn of Holland, Victoria and Joanna Anderson of Michigan; maternal grandparents, Gary and Jeanette Burroughs of Pahokee.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2000 at Glades Funeral Chapel in Belle Glade with Pastor Ted Hines officiating. Interment followed at Foreverglades Cemetery. Arrangements by Glades Funeral Chapel.

George M. Huster, 82, formerly of Belle Glade, died Monday Jan. 31, 2000. Mr. Huster was born in Bridgeton, J. J. in 1917. He also lived in West Palm Beach and recently in Okeechobee and Lake Placid. He was a retired corporate pilot flying for Seabrook Farms N. J., South Bay Growers and Billy Rogers Farms. He was appointed to the Palm Beach Port Authority Commission by Governor Claude Kirk and served two years on the Palm Beach County Noise Abatement Committee. He was an Elk and a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Huster is survived by his wife, Eva, a step daughter, three grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

Funeral services will be held at Glades Funeral Chapel Friday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. Arrangements by Glades Funeral Chapel, Belle Glade.

JAMES A. BENNETT
Funeral Home
(561) 924-5604
Locally Owned & Operated

Local Houses of Worship

GLADES FUNERAL CHAPEL
(561) 996-6122
Locally owned & Operated

Belle Glade

APOTHECARY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
1108 E. Canal St. South
Pastor J.P. Field

BELLE GLADE ALLIANCE CHURCH
415 E. Canal St. South
Rev. Lloyd G. Green

CHRISTIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
1041 NW Avenue 2
Rev. George Williams

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1202 NW Avenue 2
Rev. Robert Brown

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST #1
728 E. Avenue 2
Pastor L. Edwards

CHURCH OF GOD OF BELL & GLADE
30 SE Avenue 2
Rev. Ben Brantley

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
402 SE 12th Street
Pastor James Ingram

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
LATTER DAY SAINTS
Boulevard Drive, Ransom Palmetto

CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH
127 SW 8th Street
Reverend Robert Brown

Canal Point

CANAL POINT BAPTIST CHURCH
107 1/2 Indian
Reverend A. Bennett

CANAL POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Canal Point
Rev. David S. Jones

NEW BETHLE A.M.E. CHURCH
107 1/2 Indian
Rev. David S. Jones

Dade

COMMISSION CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH
900 SW 4th Street
Pastor Rick Bell

ST. JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
222 NW Avenue 6
Pastor Ralph Smith

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
122 E. Canal St. North
Rev. Richard Smith

ST. PHILIP BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH
400 SW 10th Street
Rev. Richard Smith

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Interview with Pahokee City Manager Ken Schenck, from Page 1

Farmer's Market, provided by the state, was moved to the city approximately four years ago, and of road frontage on SR 729, and sewage and could be a rail spur if needed. ark still needs the infrastructure, surface water, and sewerage, which the city could through grants should spectively developer, come

Schenck said the city, doesn't have its own economic development council, ising with the Palm Beach Business Development l to recruit industries to ark, as are the cities of Bay and Belle Glade.

Pahokee does have an active Chamber of Commerce and its Main Street Program has been working with projects like the facade improvement grant to fix up buildings downtown.

Pahokee has joined forces with its sister cities on the lake and state officials on the development of the Florida Scenic Trail around Lake Okechobee.

"The Lake is the biggest asset for all of us," Mr. Schenck observed and much of Pahokee's redevelopment plan centers around the Pahokee waterfront.

The city has plans to expand the existing marina campground to the south, adding an additional 86 camp sites and

100 boat slips, as well as developing the trailhead and the information signs. The city has applied for FRDP funds to provide electric and water lines and will provide a fueling station, pump out facility and dockage at the revamped marina. The city has a bait shop and small store at the city owned buildings of the marina.

Ultimately, the city hopes to relocate its government buildings to the former Pahokee High School and sell the city complex to a developer to provide apartments/condos or businesses on the marina.

Renovation of the old high school for a new city hall is a long term project, however. So far, the city has received

\$235,000 in state grant funds to repair the roof, seal the outside of the building to protect against vandalism, and complete the design plan for its future renovation. The city has applied for an additional \$125,000 in this grant cycle to begin interior wall renovations, electrical rewiring and plumbing. Slowing the project down is the lack of available matching funds to apply toward the project.

The city has been successful in obtaining Community Development Block Grant funds for water plant improvements and will receive another \$750,000 in this cycle for wastewater improvements. Once the infrastructure is up-

graded, Mr. Schenck said, the city will pursue CDBG funds for housing demolition and reconstruction.

"We do need economic diversity. We also need some housing. The bulk of housing in Pahokee has been affordable housing. We don't have the subdivisions like Royal Palm has, so we don't have the tax base. The tax base has been stagnant for years," Mr. Schenck said.

"Historically there has been a lot of flight. A lot of folks have retired and left the area, some moved to Wellington and Royal Palm Beach.

"In some respects, the flourishing of SR 80, which made the area more accessible to

both coasts, has been a double-edged sword for Pahokee, because it has made it easier for local residents to shop at the large discount stores on the coast, which has hurt local businesses," Mr. Schenck said.

The key to revitalizing Pahokee and its sister cities could be in reversing that trend, as the coast becomes more crowded.

"Becoming a bedroom community for the coast might be our niche, because I don't know that we'll get the big industries we need out here. But if you look at SR 80 in the morning or at night, it's busy. A lot of people are out there," Mr. Schenck said.

Repairs to be made to city property, continued from Page 1

ization from the department to remove the trees, the assions urged him to get authorization in writing before further action is taken.

proved six applications rificates of public conveyance from Palm Beach Trans- tion, which will allow that

company and six licensed drivers to transport handicapped Medicaid clients to doctors appointments.

According to Philip Heparay, the company, which operates Yellow Cab, was awarded the contract to provide the Medicaid funded transportation services in Palm Beach County.

Mr. Heparay assured the

commissioners that the company wants to be a good corporate citizen, and has already established a working relationship with local cab driver James Ferguson.

Mr. Heparay said his company would also work with L.C. Robinson, who also operates a cab service out of Pahokee.

Approved a zoning amend-

ment to allow a towing and painting business to be located on agriculturally zoned property, clearing the way for the location of a towing business on State Market Road.

Approved a resolution authorizing city employees to participate in a deferred compensation program offered through the International County Man-

agers Association.

Approved an amendment to the city's personnel policy, requiring background checks for new hires and strengthening the language of the city's policies against harassment.

Approved an amendment of the city's mortgage revenue bonds, last revised in 1999.



al Palm Lakes Apartments in Pahokee hosted a barbecue for residents Jan. 21. Pictured are, front row, resident Ed Arnold, manager Evelyn Norwood, back row, residents Troy Williams, Eddie Walker, Blanche Werner, Reliance Itaker, Diane Harvey of Sugar Cane Villas, Priscilla Guyton, visitor Mary Moore and resident Katherine Itaker. The independent living community has forty units and hosts community luncheons and recreational activities daily.

South Bay settles lawsuit, from Page 1

emergency meeting was following the commission's regular meeting Tuesday when City Manager Michael Jackson informed the commission that they had until a year to either agree to the settlement or continue to litigate in court.

According to Mr. Jackson, the commission after the city entered a lease agreement with Holland Industries to use the city's administrative complex. Holland Industries then contracted with p and Associates to renovate the facility at a cost of \$100,000.

Mr. Jackson said the commission decided not to locate in the Bay and the newly renovated facility remained unoccupied until the lease agreement expired. Shortly thereafter, Jackson said, the city was ordered to move its administrative offices into the facility at a five damaged the city hall.

Then Holland Industries agreed to pay for the renovation, p and Associates filed suit against the company and the city of South Bay, which owns the building.

Mr. Jackson said City Attorney Samuel Thomas had filed motion to dismiss the suit, ar-

guing that the city had not contracted for the renovations but the motion was denied.

Mr. Jackson said the judge in the case denied the motion because the city did benefit from the renovation and did utilize the newly renovated facility.

After meeting with attorneys for Tripp and Associates Mr. Thomas recommended that the city agree to a \$300,000 settlement agreement with Tripp and Associates, which the city would recover if Tripp and Associates is successful in their suit against Holland Industries. Mr. Jackson said it was likely that the company would agree to accept the settlement in \$10,000 installments, paid every three months, over nine months, beginning at the end of March.

The city had to accept or reject the settlement offer before Friday, when the case is expected to be set for trial.

Mr. Jackson said he believed the city would be better off accepting the settlement, then joining Tripp and Associates in their suit against Holland Industries, then fighting the suit filed by Tripp and later going to court against Holland Industries for breach of contract.

"If we continue with the law-

suit, we could spend three times as much," Mr. Jackson said, particularly if the city were to lose the case.

Commissioner Miranda Smith said she could not agree with the settlement, when the city was not a party to the contract between Tripp and Associates and Holland Industries and has no involvement in the renovation of the facility.

Mr. Jackson said the attorney had made that argument in his motion to dismiss and the judge had rejected it.

Mayor Clarence Anthony said that while he agreed, philosophically, with Mr. Smith, the fact remains that the city's property was improved and the city did utilize the property, which was just conveniently there," Mayor Anthony said it was fortunate that the space was available, after the city hall fire, because it would have cost the city a tremendous amount of money to rent office space for the 18 months that the city offices were located in the building.

Asked to explain the original agreement with Hollon Industries, Mr. Jackson said the company had signed a one year lease on the building and paid the first month's rent and a se-

curity deposit, and had received the city's permission to renovate the facility. Holland Industries never occupied the building, stopped remitting the rent and the lease expired, Mr. Jackson said.

Following the commission's vote to accept the settlement agreement, the commissioners authorized Mr. Thomas and Mr. Jackson to finalize the settlement and arrange the payment structure as outlined.

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For more information, contact Off. Terry Moore at 996-6511 or 996-7703.

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